## NRR 03 1006 E UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Application No.

10/678,045

Confirmation

: 6655

No.

First Named Inventor

Hiroshi SHINRIKI October 3, 2003

Filed

: 1762

TC/A.U. Examiner

B. P. Chen

Docket No.

010986.52822US

Customer No.

23911

Title

Removing Oxide Film on a Substrate with Hydrogen and

Fluorine Radicals

## INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R § 1.97 AND 1.98

## Mail Stop AMENDMENT

Commissioner for Patents P.O. Box 1450 Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

In accordance with the duty of disclosure under 37 C.F.R. § 1.56, the attached Form PTO/SB/08 lists documents which the Examiner may deem relevant to patentability of the claims of the above-identified application.

## I. Time Period of Submission

This Information Disclosure Statement is submitted:

1) no later than three months from the application's filing date or 2) before the mailing date of the first Office Action on the merits (whichever is later) or 3) before a first Office Action after the filing of a Request for Continued Examination, and therefore no statement under 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(e) or fee under 37 C.F.R.§ 1.17(p) is required.
2) after the later of three months from the application's filing date and the mailing date of the first Office Action on the merits, but before a Final Office Action, a Notice of Allowance, or an action closing prosecution (Exparte Quayle), (whichever is earlier), and therefore Applicant is filing concurrently herewith:
a Statement under 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(e); or
a fee in the amount of \$180.00 under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17(p).
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04/05/2006 HALI11 00000017 10678045

M after either a Final Office Action or a Notice of Allowance, but before payment of the Issue Fee, and therefore Applicant is submitting herewith: a Statement under 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(e); and a fee in the amount of \$180.00 under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17(p). Statement Under 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(e) II. I hereby state that each item of information contained in this Information Disclosure Statement was first cited in any communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application not more than three months prior to the filing of this Information Disclosure Statement; or I hereby state that no item of information contained in this Information Disclosure Statement was cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application, and, to my knowledge after making a reasonable inquiry, no item of information contained in this Information Disclosure Statement was known to any individual designated in 37 C.F.R. § 1.56(c) more than three months prior to the filing of this Information Disclosure Statement; or Statement under 37 C.F.R. § 1.704(d) III. I hereby state that each item of information contained in this Information Disclosure Statement was first cited in any communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart application and that this communication was not received by any individual designated in 37 C.F.R. § 1.56(c) more than thirty days prior to the filing of this Information Disclosure Statement. Submission of Non-English Language Documents IV. The following is a concise explanation of relevance of the non-English language documents listed in the attached Form PTO/SB/08: The relevance of document(s) \_\_\_\_\_ to the subject matter of the present invention is/are provided in the specification of the above-identified application. The listed documents were found to be relevant by the Examiner during the prosecution of the corresponding Japanese patent application, JP 2002-291579. A copy of the Office Action of JP 2002-291579 mailed January 31, 2006 is enclosed. An English language abstract of each cited document is hereby submitted with a copy of the Japanese patent documents

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cited therein.

	guage family member publication(s) of on Form PTO/SB/08.
English langua	age abstract(s) is/are submitted for document(s)
English transla	ation(s) of the foreign language document(s)
Applicant s	submits the following explanations:
V. <u>Continuations/Divisionals</u>	
orovided in 37 C.F.R. §1.98(d), consince they were previously submitted frademark Office in the afore-mental The submission of the lister that any such document constituted pplication. Applicant does not we appropriate to antedate or otherwise ference against the claims of the	d documents is not intended as an admission tes prior art against the claims of the present aive any right to take any action that would be tise remove any listed document as a competent
	y Docket No.: 010986.52822US, for the fee set
	Respectfully submitted,
April 3, 2006	Respectfully submitted,  Jeffrey D. Sanok Registration No. 32,169
April 3, 2006	Jeffrey D. Sanok

MODIFIED PTO/SB/08 (08-00)

Approved for use through 10/31/2002. OMB 0651-0031

U.S. Patent and Trademark Office: U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

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number. Substitute for form 1449B/PTOO 403 Complete if Known **Application Number** 10/678,045 INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT BY APPLICANTR 0 3 2006 Filing Date October 3, 2003 First Named Inventor Hiroshi Shinriki Date Submitted: April 3, Group Art Unit 1762 **Examiner Name** Bret P Chen (use as many sheets as nece 010986.52822US Attorney Docket Number of 1 Sheet 1

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS							
Examiner Initials*	Cite No. <sup>1</sup>	Office	Foreign Patent Document	Name of Patentee or	Date of Publication of Cited Document MM-DD-YYYY	Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear	Τ <sup>e</sup>
	A1	JP	03-116727	FUJITSU LTD.	05-17-1991		
	A2	JP	05-160085	FUJITSU LTD.	06-25-1993		
	А3	JP	06-338478	FUJITSU LTD.	12-06-1994		
	A4	JP	04-294539	KAWASAKI STEEL CORP.	10-19-1992		
	A5	JP	05-226315	SHARP CORP.	09-03-1993		
	A6	JP	2002-219429	HITACHI ELECTRONICS ENG CO LTD.	08-06-2002		
	A7	JP	2001-232317	HERAEUS NOBLELIGHT GMBH	08-28-2001		
	-						

Examiner Signature	Date Considered	

\*EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.

Burden Hour Statement: This form is estimated to take 2.0 hours to complete. Time will vary depending upon the needs of the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you are required to complete this form should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, PO Box 1450, Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. SEND TO: Commissioner for Patents, PO Box 1450, Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> Unique citation designation number. <sup>2</sup>See attached Kinds of U.S. Patent Documents. <sup>3</sup>Enter Office that issued the document, by the two-letter code (WIPO Standard ST.3). <sup>4</sup>For Japanese patent documents, the indication of the year of the reign of the Emperor must precede the serial number of the patent document. <sup>5</sup>Kind of document by the appropriate symbols as indicated on the document under WIPO Standard ST. 16 if possible. <sup>6</sup>Applicant is to place a check mark here if English language Translation is attached.